10th August 1929]

The hon. Minister visited the institutions connected with the departments under his charge and received representations from local bodies and the managements of educational institutions.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to clause (*b*) of my question, may I know whether he did any party or propaganda work during those tours? Evidently, the question has been omitted to be answered."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" The answer to clause (*b*) is 'no'."

## Excise

*Sale of foreign liquors by Messrs. Shanmugam & Co. of Tenkasi.*

* 305 *Q.*—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Messrs. Shanmugam & Co. of Tenkasi, Tinnevelly district, are the sole dealers of foreign liquors for the whole of Tenkasi taluk ;

(*b*) the reasons why foreign liquors are being licensed to be sold in this taluk although the Government have stopped the sale of country liquor in that taluk for the past five years and have extended the period of prohibition for two more years ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the said Shanmugam & Co. are selling each liquor bottle at a profit of Rs. 3 and whether they are profiteering at the expense of the consumers of foreign liquors there ;

(*d*) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that on the plea of permitting this licence for foreign liquor, they compel the consumers to pay more for drink ; and

(*e*) what steps the Government propose to take regarding this matter ?

*A.*—(*a*) & (*c*) The Government have no information on the points but have called for it.

(*b*) In this taluk only the arrack shops have been closed as an experimental measure.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) The Government, as stated, have called for a report on the matters referred to in clauses (*a*) and (*c*) of the question.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI.—" With reference to clause (*a*) of my question, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to place the information on the table of the House ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That suggestion will be considered."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I know if the Government will be pleased to put down the evil referred to in clause (*c*) of my question ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I do not appreciate where the evil lies there."